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**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP  
of the  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**September 23, 2008  
Minutes**

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**THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.**

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

**In Attendance:**

Hartwell, Scott	Metro
Hills, Heather	Metro
Litschi, Michael	OCTA
McAllester, Brad	Metro
Walecka, Carla	TCA
Wiggins, Stephanie	Metro
Wiggins-Tolbert, Alice	PB
Williams, Leann	Caltrans, District 7

**SCAG Staff**

Luo, Rongsheng  
Nadler, Jonathan  
Sherwood, Arnie

**Via Teleconference:**

Alvarez, Grace	RCTC
Brady, Mike	Caltrans Headquarters
Cacatian, Ben	Ventura County APCD
Fagan, Paul	Caltrans, District 8
Gutierrez, Jose	City of Los Angeles
Jeffrey, Edison	Caltrans, District 8
Johnson, Sandy	Caltrans, District 11
Louka, Tony	Caltrans, District 8
Luxenburg, Steve	FHWA
Morales, Diane	Caltrans, District 8
O'Connor, Karina	EPA, Region 9
Sells, Eyvonne	SCAQMD
Tax, Wienke	EPA, Region 9
Wade, Dennis	ARB
Yoon, Andrew	Caltrans, District 7

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**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

On behalf of Michael Litschi, Chair, Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

**2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments.

**3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR**

**3.1 Approval Item**

**3.1.1 TCWG August 26, 2008 Meeting Minutes**  
The minutes were approved.

**4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

**4.1 RTP Update**

Rongsheng Luo, SCAG, discussed the proposed 2008 RTP amendment #1. The emissions analyses meet the applicable emission budgets or no-build tests. The draft conformity analysis will be presented to the EEC as an information item on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and will then be released as part of the RTP amendment document for 30-day public review.

In response to a question, Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, clarified that SB375 will have no immediate impacts on projects in the 2008 RTP. There are many procedures required by SB375 that will impact the development of the 2012 RTP. SCAG staff has been working diligently to understand the law and how it relates to AB32. SCAG staff also has been briefing the Regional Council and policy committees. SCAG staff plans to work with all partners to make sure that region meets all requirements of SB375.

A question was raised as to when the amendment will be approved. The Regional Council will consider the RTP amendment at its December 4, 2008 meeting. Steve Luxenburg, FHWA, stated that FHWA never takes more than 30 days to review and approve the conformity analysis.

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4.2 RTIP Update

Jonathan Nadler reported that Caltrans Headquarters had released the STIP for a 30-day public review period which closed on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Caltrans will have to respond to any comments and then forward to the Federal Agencies for its review.

4.3 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

- 1) **(SB) 34770** – Realign and widen a 12.9-mile segment of State Route-58 from a two lane conventional highway to a four lane Expressway; and construct a railroad grade separation and inter-change at the SR-58/US-395 junction in San Bernardino County.

It was determined that this is not a POAQC pending confirmation by f FHWA.

- 2) **LA0G092** – A demonstration pilot project that would initially covert existing high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes to high occupancy vehicle toll (HOT) lanes along portions of the I-10 and the I-110 freeways in Los Angeles County.

It was determined that this is not a POAQC pending confirmation by FHWA.

- 3) **IMP050507** –Aten Road Rehabilitation Project (2.25 miles) and signalization of the intersection of Aten Road and Clark Road in the City of Imperial.

It had been determined prior to the meeting that this is not a POAQC.

4.4 TCM Discussion

Jonathan Nadler stated that TCM discussion would be made a standing item on the TCWG agenda. The goal is to consider how to make the TCM timely implementation process more efficient. SCAG will revisit the discussion the TCWG had during the development of the 2007 South Coast SIP on this subject.

Mr. Nadler added that two TCM substitutions from MTA have been released for public review. One substitution is for bus stop improvements and the other is for a bike lane. Both substitution projects are qualified to be TCM substitutions.

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**5.0 INFORMATION SHARING**

Karina O'Connor, EPA, stated that EPA plans to release at the end of the year an amendment to the conformity rule for the new 24-hour PM 2.5 standards. A draft guidance document for the PM quantitative analysis needs to be ready by the end of 2009 and the final guidance document needs to be ready by the end of 2010.

Mike Brady, Caltrans, reported that a report will be posted on the UCD/Caltrans website soon which is a comparison of CALINE 4, Cal3QHC, and other air dispersion models for PM hot spot analysis.

Jonathan Nadler briefed the TCWG about the public hearing on the Transportation Corridor Agency's SR-241 project. An appeal to the US Department of Commerce relative to a California Coastal Commission decision was delegated to the National Oceanic Administration. Previously, one public hearing had been held at which approximately two-thousand people attended. Six hundred people registered to speak at the recent appeal hearing.

Carla Walecka, TCA, clarified that the public record will be open for two weeks following the hearing and comments can be added through October 2, 2008. The Secretary of Commerce is expected to make a decision on the project no later than January 7, 2009.

At its February meeting, the California Coastal Commission determined that the project was not consistent with the Coastal Management Act. However, this is being appealed on the basis that it is consistent with the National Coastal Zone Management Act and that it is needed for national security and other national benefits.

This project has been a TCM since 1991 and would require a TCM substitution if it could not go through the approval process. Richard Dixon, SCAG President, made comments to the effect at the hearing. Legal remedies will be available to both sides after the decision by the Secretary of Commerce.

Wienke Tax announced that she is taking Rebecca Rosen's place as U.S. EPA's planning lead for South Coast.

Eyvonne Sells, SCAQMD, asked U.S. EPA for a status update on the Conformity SIP. Karina O'Connor, U.S. EPA, stated that she is reviewing the Conformity SIP information she has from the SCAG region and she requested Ms. Sells to send her a copy of the SCAQMD Interagency Consultation MOU. She also stated that U.S. EPA headquarters is

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expected to soon issue new Conformity SIP guidance. Ms. Sells and Ben Cacation, VCAPCD, expressed concern about the conformity SIP schedule. Ms. O'Connor agreed to begin discussions regarding the Conformity SIPs starting next month.

**Suggested Agenda Item for October TCWG Meeting**

It was suggested that the Conformity SIP Update be an agenda item for the October TCWG Meeting.

**6.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Michael Litschi adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on October 28, 2008 at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.